P/3748-4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Derek LIDOW   Date: December 5, 2001

Serial No.: 09/758,509   Group Art Unit: 2163

Filed: January 11, 2001   Examiner: R. Bachner

For: SUPPLY CHAIN ARCHITECTURE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PETITION TO MAKE APPLICATION SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102

Sir:

1. Petition:

Applicant hereby petitions to make the above-identified application special under 37

C.F.R. § 1.102 and MPEP § 708.02, VIII. The application has not yet been examined.

2. Claims:

(a) All the claims in this case are directed to a single invention.

(b) If the Office determines that all of the claims presented are not obviously directed to

a single invention, applicants will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant

of special status.

3. Search:

A search was made in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Internet database on class

705, subclasses 1, 7, 10, 35, and 39. Key word searching was utilized to augment the search.

The patents uncovered and deemed most clearly related to the subject matter

encompassed by the claims are listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449.

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4. Copies of References:

The patents located in the search and deemed most clearly related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims are as follows (copies enclosed):

U.S. Patent No.	Inventor	Date
4,799,156	Shavit et al.	Jan. 17, 1989
5,946,662	Ettl et al.	Aug. 31, 1999
5,953,707	Huang et al.	Sep. 14, 1999
5,974,395	Bellini et al.	Oct. 26, 1999
6,151,582	Huang et al.	Nov. 21, 2000
6,167,385	Hartley-Urquhart	Dec. 26, 2000
6,324,522	Peterson et al.	Nov. 27, 2001

5. Discussion of References:

Shavit et al. discloses an interactive on-line market management system. The system disclosed by Shavit et al. includes a centralized market management system that provides information to buyers, suppliers, freight services, and financial institutions. Shavit et al. does not teach a method or system in which forecasted demands are received from customers, analyzed for validity, and sent to suppliers. Further, Shavit et al. does not teach or suggest aggregating the forecast demands, or sending products to a cross-dock. Shavit et al. also does not teach or suggest a system for processing customer demands, the system including a supply chain server or a cross-dock.

Bellini et al. discloses an enterprise planning system in which a central supply chain planning engine communicates with resource planning systems of various supply chain members, including suppliers and distributors. Bellini et al. does not teach or suggest a supply chain architecture in which forecasted demands are received and analyzed for validity.

Ettl et al. discloses a supply chain network optimized for inventory between internal supplier locations and external distributor locations. Ettl et al. does not teach or suggest a supply

chain architecture including a supply chain server, or in which forecasted demands are received and analyzed for validity.

Huang et al. '707 and Huang et al. '582 disclose a decision support system for a manufacturing supply chain. The decision support system includes demand management functions. The Huang et al. patents do not teach or suggest a supply chain architecture including a supply chain server, or one in which forecasted demands are received and analyzed for validity.

Hartley-Urquhart discloses a supply chain financing system involving a financial institution, a supplier, and a buyer. Hartley-Urquhart does not teach or suggest financing in which a financing payment is sent from a bank to a third party, who then forwards the payment to the supplier. Hartley-Urquhart also does not teach or suggest a financing system including a supply chain server in which a financial institution sends payment to the supply chain server, and the supply chain server forwards the payment to the supplier.

Peterson et al. discloses a distribution process in which vendors communicate over a network and establish agreements with respect to sales of items between parties. Invoices and payments also are communicated over the network. In contrast to the present invention, Peterson et al. does not teach or suggest a supply chain architecture including a supply chain server, or one in which forecasted demands are received and analyzed for validity.

6. Fee:

Our Check No. 8392 in the amount of $130.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h) is attached.

7. **Preliminary Amendment**:

Please enter the Preliminary Amendment accompanying this Petition prior to examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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